



October, 2024

Dear Parents,

Peace! The opening of 2024-2025 is a memory. As always, days slip into weeks and here we are at the beginning of a new month. God, in His wisdom, gives us the gift of a new beginning every hour, week, month, etc. May these next 31 days bring us to a new awareness of how scripture and our theme **REMAIN IN GOD** will enhance our everyday living and choices.



Thanks so much to all who attended our Back to School PTA Meeting and Classroom Visitation nights. We are grateful for your presence and support. We are blessed with a dedicated faculty who are committed to educating the “whole child in our God centered environment”. We are blessed with our parents who have chosen a parish Catholic School so that our children can have a deeper understanding of their faith. We are blessed with our children who are Spirit filled, learning to be disciples of Jesus and making room for all at the table.

October brings many changes in creation. Sunrise and sunset will be different from the summer months, leaves will brighten our world with a variety of colors, the harvest will bear the last of our summer crops. Yes, October speaks clearly of change.

Speaking of change, you are aware that the Diocese of Trenton will be using a new report card for the 2024-2025 school year. The guiding principles for the change are;

- Assessment FOR learning
- Snapshot of PROGRESS in preparation for and heading to the FUTURE
- GROWTH mindset



More information will be coming in a separate email.

PTA is very excited about your response to the Raise Right program. Your support is greatly appreciated. We are hopeful that EVERY FAMILY will participate in this fundraiser. The best news is that there is no extra cost to you and you benefit from the results. As we stated at the Back to School Night, the cost to educate your child in our parish school (not private) is \$7,764. Each child receives a scholarship of \$3,064. Thank you to all who have extra financial means and donate to our tuition fund that assists parents who are having financial concerns for a variety of reasons. Your goodness is greatly appreciated.

Our first Meet and Greet PTA Meeting went very well. Thanks to all who prepared and attended it. We are happy that so many people are interested in helping to keep the SJA spirit alive. The positive energy is certainly contagious 😊

Hopefully many friends of SJA School will support our Handbag Bingo Night on Friday, October 18th. It promises to be a great night for fun and relaxation. Tickets are on sale now. Check out the flyer for more information.

Speaking of fundraising, and the generosity of those who contribute to that fund, the Sisters of St. Joseph have a Mission Fund. Through wise investments they have been able to make donations to school with financial concerns. Since Covid, they have extended their outreach to all schools served by the Sisters of St. Joseph. This year they made a donation of \$15,000 to put towards our Tuition Assistance program. Please continue to keep the Sisters and their good works in your prayers.



Soccer and Volleyball are up and running. Special thanks to all the coaches who volunteer their time and skill. We so appreciate who you are for us. Looking forward to a great season for all. It is so nice to hear the players cheering each other on as they play.

National Maintenance Day is Wednesday, October 2nd. We are very grateful for our Maintenance Team and all they do for us. Delivery people and visitors who come into our building often comment how clean it is and how great it looks. We were blessed this August that all the grout in the first floor hallways has been replaced, making it look brand new. Thanks, Maintenance, for keeping it looking so good.

Our first Spaghetti Dinner for the Class of 2025 was a success. We served over 103 people. Special thanks to the kitchen crew who faithfully serve our school community. Your time, efforts and talent are greatly appreciated. The next spaghetti dinners are Wednesday, October 9th, for Kindergarten and October 30th, for 1st Grade. Please join us at 6:15 pm in the school cafeteria. We ask that you instruct your children to act the way they do at lunchtime. Lunch rules are inside voices, stay at your table, no running in the cafeteria. Sometimes the children get excited to see their friends and when finished dinner begin running. Please help us keep our kids safe. Thank you for your assistance.



On Thursday, October 3rd, Evesham Fire Rescue will do a presentation on Fire Safety for children in grades K-5. We are so grateful for the service of all our First Responders. Let's continue to pray for their safety.

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is Friday, October 4th. Animals will be blessed on Saturday, October 5th at 10:00 am in the parish prayer garden. Bring all your pets, little and big.

Our Leadership Team and Safety Patrol will be installed at our weekly Friday liturgy at 9:00 am on October 4th. Join us as our leaders take on the responsibility of being Eucharist for all in the school community.



School will be closed on Monday, October 14th as we remember Columbus Day, let's pray for all Indigenous People. May we all develop a deeper awareness and appreciation for their histories and cultures.

Star Assessments will begin the week of October 7th through the week of October 21st for grades 2-8. The assessment consists of two testing sessions. One will be Language Arts and the second assessment will be in Mathematics. Each assessment will be approximately 30-45 minutes. Students will be instructed how to complete the assessment on their chromebooks. Good sleep habits and healthy breakfast are important to a student's overall well being, not just at assessment time. Please encourage your child to take their time doing the assessment. A letter from Mr. Daniel O'Connell, our Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Diocese of Trenton, is attached to this email.

Representatives from grades 7th and 8th will join other students from around the Diocese of Trenton on Thursday, October 10th, at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold. Bishop David O'Connell will be the celebrant accompanied by a number of parish priests.

School pictures will be on Tuesday October, 8th. Students have received an order form for picture day and must bring it to school on Tuesday, October 8th. Students are to be in regular school uniforms. Eighth grade students will get directions from their teachers.



Dr. Vincent Schmidt, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Trenton, asked that we bring your attention to the two paragraphs on the cover page of the Parent/Student Handbook. Those paragraphs are to be in every handbook throughout the diocese. Please read and discuss the expectations all are required to follow. Thank you.

Hopefully you heard Father Rich's homily this past Sunday addressing the purpose of the SYNOD in Rome. Last year we spent time with the children explaining how we are journeying together as the church, into the future, hoping to make our world a more peaceful place. Father Rich's weekly letter in the bulletin for this week gives more information. If you misplaced your bulletin, it can be found online. We want our children to understand the importance of their sacred gathering as they are the future of our Catholic Church.

In the middle of October (16th) we will recognize World Hunger Day. Throughout the month we will collect non perishable items and paper products for Wiley and the local community food pantry at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Marlton. Thank you for whatever you can give.

Again, we ask you to be aware of your child's social media accounts. Mrs. Appalucci did a number of NetSmartz lessons, hoping to help your child make good decisions while online.

October is Respect Life Month. We will begin our traditional Family Life Program as mandated by the Diocese of Trenton. The program also incorporates the values of Virtus and our Religion Curriculum.

October is also dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. During the coming weeks we will be teaching about the rosary. We will have an opportunity to pray the rosary as a class and a school. May Our Lady of the Rosary intercede for us and our intentions.

This year Theatre Week (grades 3-8) will return to its October time. Rehearsal will begin Monday, October 21st through Thursday, October 24th. The production will be Friday, October 25th at 7:00pm. More detailed directions will be coming.

We will anticipate celebrating All Saints Day, Nov 1st, as we welcome the Great Pumpkin on Thursday, October 31st. Students may wear school appropriate black and orange clothing. They will do a special project with the prayer partners. PTA will provide a Halloween Treat. PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD TO SCHOOL FOR HALLOWEEN. Thanks for your cooperation. Children will be asked to bring a donation to help treat the children in the Missions. We will end the day with a prayer service and a brief Mission Walk where they can drop off their donations. Thank you for helping your child see the importance of reaching out to other children in need.



October begins with the celebration of our Guardian Angels. May they continue to guide and protect us, helping us to **REMAIN IN GOD**. Let's continue to be ***Eucharist, the Bridge to Unity***.



God's Blessings,
Sister Pat